



Youth Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention Honor Society

Established by the Maine Office of Substance Abuse (OSA) to recognize youth in Maine who have been active in substance abuse prevention efforts.

Recognition & Support

Many youth in Maine have devoted a great deal of their time, energy, and passion to preventing substance abuse problems in their communities as well as their state. This honor society is a way for the Office of Substance Abuse to say to the youth "thank you for your commitment". Many of the Maine youth who are prevention advocates have been pioneers in their work and have faced challenges along the way. This honor society can serve to validate and recognize their work. Additionally, the honor society will illustrate to Maine youth that they are part of a larger movement of youth around the state who share in their dedication to substance abuse prevention.

Students accepted into the honor society will receive a certificate of membership. Additionally, a press release will be provided to the nominating adult for voluntary submission to local media outlets.

Opportunity

Membership in the Youth Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention may help to connect the youth to opportunities in the future. An obvious benefit is that youth may include their membership on their resumes and/or college applications.

If a youth plans to attend college here in Maine, membership in the honor society could help connect them with prevention advocates on the campus they attend. Many colleges (including public, private, two and four year schools) around the state currently participate in the OSA's *Higher Education Alcohol Prevention Project (HEAPP)*. As these campuses form coalitions and begin implementing initiatives, they are extremely interested in connecting with youth who are committed to and have experience in substance abuse prevention work. This partnership is a great way to ensure that substance abuse prevention is addressed on campuses, while also helping youth to have a positive and productive college experience.

Criteria For Honor Society Membership

- ? Be graduating high school in Spring of 2002 (*Beginning Fall 2002, membership will be open to high school juniors and seniors*)
- ? Have a minimum of 6 months participation in substance abuse prevention activities
- ? Be nominated by an adult coordinator or advisor who can accurately verify the youth's involvement
- ? Participation in a substance abuse prevention program(s) does not automatically meet membership criteria; youth must be actively involved in organizing and implementing substance abuse prevention efforts.

Youth Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention (YASAP) Leadership Award

The Leadership Award is designed to recognize YASAP members/nominees who have displayed extraordinary dedication and leadership to youth prevention efforts in Maine. Ideal candidates are youth who have been instrumental in organizing, promoting, and implementing a youth prevention group and/or substance abuse prevention projects. Each year a select group of youth will be chosen by a committee to receive this award. (*PLEASE NOTE: A separate nomination form specific to this award must be completed*)

How to Nominate Youth

- ? **For membership in the YASAP honor society:** A membership nomination form must be completed by an adult coordinator or advisor familiar with the youth's substance abuse prevention efforts. *PLEASE NOTE:* There is no limit on how many youth an adult can nominate for membership; however, separate nomination forms are needed for each individual. Nomination forms may be photocopied.
- ? **For the Leadership Award:** The nomination form should be completed by an adult coordinator or advisor who has worked closely with the nominee in the area of substance abuse prevention. *PLEASE NOTE:* Nominators are limited to submitting leadership award nominations for 2 youth per nomination period.

A call for nominations will occur each October and May. October nominations will be open for both high school juniors and

seniors. The May nomination period is for graduating high school seniors only.

For more information or to request nomination forms, please contact Becky Ireland, Coordinator of Maine's Higher Education Alcohol Prevention Project, by e-mail at ireland@cmtc.net or by phone at (207) 755-5310.